

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION--EC
MANDATES ON RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT

REF EC BRUSSELS 6775

1. SUMMARY. THE EC'S AD HOC HIGH-LEVEL WORKING PARTY HAS PRODUCED DRAFT MANDATES COVERING RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT. THE DOCUMENTS MORE OR LESS REITERATE THE "GUIDELINES POSITION" DRAWN UP IN PREPARATION FOR THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE WORKING GROUP HAS NOT, AS YET, ADDED MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPECIFICS TO THE EC'S EARLIER POSITION AND IT IS FELT THAT THESE WILL ONLY BE ADDED WHEN THE RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONS GET DOWN TO WORK. END SUMMARY

2. THE MISSION HAS OBTAINED, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, COPIES OF RECENT WORKING DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE EC'S AD HOC HIGH-LEVEL WORKING GROUP ENTITLED "PROGRESS TO DATE IN FORMULATING GUIDELINES FOR RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT". READING THESE
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"OBJECTIVE PAPERS" (WHICH ARE STILL HEAVILY BRACKETED WITH

DIFFERING MEMBER STATE VIEWS AND LIKELY TO BE WORKED OVER CONSIDERABLY DURING THE COMING WEEKS) HAS CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE EC A) WILL GO TO THE CIEC MINISTERIAL WITH A "GUIDELINES" APPROACH BASED LARGELY ON ITS POSITION AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION, AND B) WILL NOT GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS UNTIL THE WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS IS UNDERWAY. COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/RPE:CASEY.

3. RAW MATERIALS: OBJECTIVES FOR THE DIALOGUE ON RAW MATERIALS ARE OUTLINED WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF GENERALITY AND ARE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. REFERENCE IS MADE TO "A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC ORDER" TO "CORRECT THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES", WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE POOREST. THE FOCUS OF THE DIALOGUE IN THE FIELD OF RAW MATERIALS SHOULD BE A) STABLE AND INCREASING LDC FOREIGN CURRENCY REVENUES, ESPECIALLY VIA DIVERSIFICATION AND MORE RAW MATERIAL PROCESSING; B) ENSURING PRICES FAIR TO CONSUMERS AND REMUNERATIVE TO PRODUCERS, PROMOTING LONG-TERM SUPPLY-DEMAND EQUILIBRIUM; C) SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR POOREST PRODUCERS; D) CREATING MORE OUTLETS FOR PRODUCERS AND MORE STABLE SUPPLIES FOR CONSUMERS; AND E) ACHIEVING ADEQUATE INVESTMENT LEVELS IN THE COMMODITIES-PRODUCING SECTORS.

4. TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES, THE DOCUMENT NOTES THAT PARTIES TO THE DIALOGUE SHOULD CONFER TOGETHER TO WORK OUT AN "OVERALL APPROACH". THE COMMUNITY WOULD STATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ALL OF THESE SUBJECTS AND WOULD PROPOSE, FOR ITS PART, ADOPTING THE PRINCIPLE OF A "SERIES OF COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES ON A BALANCED ASSORTMENT OF SUBJECTS: SETTING UP OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND MUTUAL CONSULTATION, MEASURES TO LIMIT EXCESSIVE PRICE FLUCTUATIONS (I.E., CASE-BY-CASE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS), STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, ACCESS TO MARKETS, AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION.

5. LASTLY, THE DOCUMENT NOTES THAT ANY FINANCIAL COSTS RESULTING FROM THESE MEASURES "SHOULD BE SHARED AMONG ALL THE PARTIES WITH ADEQUATE RESOURCES".

6. DEVELOPMENT: THE "DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IN THE DIALOGUE" DOCUMENT IS ALSO VERY GENERAL, AIMED AT A "CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRIBUTION". IT IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE BRIEF AREAS: INTERNATIONAL TRADE; TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES; INDUSTRIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; AND DISASTER AID. THE CURRENT DOCUMENT MERELY REPEATS IN A SHORTENED VERSION THE POSITION TAKEN IN EARLY JULY (SEE REFTTEL) ADDING TWO BRIEF SECTIONS ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, AND DISASTER AID. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SUB-SECTION NOTES THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DIALOGUE SHOULD IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ENABLE LDCS TO MEET THEIR GROWING

FOOD REQUIREMENTS. INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LDCS IS THEREFORE A PRIME OBJECTIVE. TO THIS END THERE SHOULD BE STEPPED UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE, BETTER MARKET ACCESS, MORE (AND BETTER COORDINATED) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, AND SATISFACTORY TERMS FOR AGRICULTURAL INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES. A SECOND MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY IN THE LDCS AND HERE THE DOCUMENTS NOTES THE EC "COULD HELP THE LDCS TO LAUNCH NATIONAL OR REGIONAL STOCKPILING POLICIES TO CUSHION THEM AGAINST PRODUCTION UNCERTAINTIES". LASTLY, PENDING THE EFFECT OF THESE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS, THE PARTIES SHOULD "CONSIDER TOGETHER HOW THE FOOD AID POLICY COULD BE IMPROVED". GREENWALD

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